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A/47/67
6 January 1992
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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Letter dated 23 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the reservations by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States signed on behalf of Ukraine at Minsk on 8 December 1991, together with the text of the relevant statement by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine dated 20 December 1991 (see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", "Human rights questions", "United Nations Decade of International Law" and "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

(Signed) Gennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

[Original: Russian]

ANNEX I

Reservations by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States signed on behalf of Ukraine at Minsk on 8 December 1991

A.

1. Pursuant to article 3, each of the High Contracting Parties, desirous of facilitating the expression, preservation and development of the distinctive ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious characteristics of the national minorities resident in its territory and of the unique ethno-cultural regions that have come into being, will extend protection to them.

2. Pursuant to article 5 of the Agreement, the High Contracting Parties acknowledge and respect each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of the existing State borders between them.

They guarantee on a mutual basis openness of the State borders existing between them for unimpeded contact between their citizens and the transmission of information within the Commonwealth, and to this end will in the near future draw up the appropriate basis in law.

3. Pursuant to article 6, the States members of the Commonwealth, re-forming the units of the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stationed in their territories and creating their own armed forces on the basis thereof, will cooperate in safeguarding international peace and security and implementing effective measures for the reduction of armaments and military expenditures. They are striving to eliminate all nuclear weapons and achieve universal and complete disarmament under strict international control.

The parties will respect the efforts of the participants in the Agreement who wish to attain the status of a nuclear-free or neutral State.

The States members of the Commonwealth will maintain, and retain under joint command, a common military and strategic space and unified control over nuclear weapons, the procedure for implementing which will be regulated by special agreement. This provision shall cease to apply with respect to Parties on whose territory nuclear weapons are destroyed in accordance with an international agreement and under international control.

They also jointly guarantee the necessary conditions for the deployment and functioning and the material and social security of the strategic armed forces.

The Parties undertake to pursue an agreed policy on issues of social welfare and provision of pensions for military personnel and their families.

4. Pursuant to article 7 of the Agreement, the High Contracting Parties recognize that the spheres of their cooperation, conducted on an equitable basis through common coordinating institutions of the Commonwealth, include:

- Consultation in the field of foreign policy;

- Development of a common economic space, participation in Europe-wide and Eurasian markets, and customs policy;

- Development of their own transport and communications systems;

- Protection of the environment and participation in establishing a comprehensive international system of environmental security;

- Migration policy;

- Combating organized crime.

The coordinating institutions will be established on the basis of parity, and their recommendations will be adopted by consensus.

5. Pursuant to article 9, disputes regarding the interpretation and application of the provisions of the present Agreement shall be resolved by means of negotiations on the basis of international law.

6. Pursuant to article 10, each of the High Contracting Parties reserves the right to suspend or terminate the application of this Agreement or individual articles thereof by giving the parties to the Agreement one year's notice.

The provisions of this Agreement may be supplemented or modified by mutual agreement among the High Contracting Parties.

7. Article 11 of the Agreement should be deleted as tautological.

8. Pursuant to article 12, the High Contracting Parties undertake to discharge, in accordance with their national legislation, the international obligations incumbent upon them under treaties entered into by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

9. This Agreement is subject to ratification and shall enter into force from the moment of exchange of the instruments of ratification. The exchange of the instruments of ratification shall take place at Minsk. The depositary of the Agreement shall be the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

10. In the first preambular paragraph, after the words "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a" insert the word "State".

11. In the third preambular paragraph, after the words "setting up" insert the word "independent".

12. In the fourth preambular paragraph, after the words "in internal affairs,", insert the words "of territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers,".

I. PLUSHCH
Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada
of Ukraine

10 December 1991

B.

In view of the importance to the fate of Ukraine of the content of the Agreement signed at Minsk, it is proposed that one further addition should be made to the Reservations already adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

1. Amend the title of the Agreement, deleting the word "establishing" and writing the word "commonwealth" with a small initial letter. The heading should read: "Agreement on the commonwealth of independent States".

2. For consistency with this, amend article 1 to read:

"The High Contracting Parties hereby take a decision on the commonwealth of independent States."

3. Article 6 should begin with the words "The High Contracting Parties" instead of "The States members of the Commonwealth".

4. The third paragraph of article 6 should begin with the words "The High Contracting Parties" instead of "The States members of the Commonwealth".

Adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
on 12 December 1991

UNITED NATIONS

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A/47/67*
10 January 1992
ENGLISH
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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

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I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", "Human rights questions", "United Nations Decade of International Law" and "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

(Signed) Gennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

[Original: Russian]

ANNEX I

Reservations by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States signed on behalf of Ukraine at Minsk on 8 December 1991

A.

1. Pursuant to article 3, each of the High Contracting Parties, desirous of facilitating the expression, preservation and development of the distinctive ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious characteristics of the national minorities resident in its territory and of the unique ethno-cultural regions that have come into being, will extend protection to them.

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They guarantee on a mutual basis openness of the State borders existing between them for unimpeded contact between their citizens and the transmission of information within the Commonwealth, and to this end will in the near future draw up the appropriate basis in law.

3. Pursuant to article 6, the States members of the Commonwealth, re-forming the units of the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stationed in their territories and creating their own armed forces on the basis thereof, will cooperate in safeguarding international peace and security and implementing effective measures for the reduction of armaments and military expenditures. They are striving to eliminate all nuclear weapons and achieve universal and complete disarmament under strict international control.

The parties will respect the efforts of the participants in the Agreement who wish to attain the status of a nuclear-free or neutral State.

The States members of the Commonwealth will maintain, and retain under joint command, a common military and strategic space and unified control over nuclear weapons, the procedure for implementing which will be regulated by special agreement. This provision shall cease to apply with respect to Parties on whose territory nuclear weapons are destroyed in accordance with an international agreement and under international control.

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- Development of their own transport and communications systems;

- Protection of the environment and participation in establishing a comprehensive international system of environmental security;

- Migration policy;

- Combating organized crime.

The coordinating institutions will be established on the basis of parity, and their recommendations will be adopted by consensus.

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6. Pursuant to article 10, each of the High Contracting Parties reserves the right to suspend or terminate the application of this Agreement or individual articles thereof by giving the parties to the Agreement one year's notice.

The provisions of this Agreement may be supplemented or modified by mutual agreement among the High Contracting Parties.

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8. Pursuant to article 12, the High Contracting Parties undertake to discharge, in accordance with their national legislation, the international obligations incumbent upon them under treaties entered into by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

9. This Agreement is subject to ratification and shall enter into force from the moment of exchange of the instruments of ratification. The exchange of the instruments of ratification shall take place at Minsk. The depositary of the Agreement shall be the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

10. In the first preambular paragraph, after the words "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a" insert the word "State".

11. In the third preambular paragraph, after the words "setting up" insert the word "independent".

12. In the fourth preambular paragraph, after the words "in internal affairs,", insert the words "of territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers,".

I. PLUSHCH
Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada
of Ukraine

10 December 1991

B.

In view of the importance to the fate of Ukraine of the content of the Agreement signed at Minsk, it is proposed that one further addition should be made to the Reservations already adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

1. Amend the title of the Agreement, deleting the word "establishing" and writing the word "commonwealth" with a small initial letter. The heading should read: "Agreement on the commonwealth of independent States".

2. For consistency with this, amend article 1 to read:

"The High Contracting Parties hereby take a decision on the commonwealth of independent States."

3. Article 6 should begin with the words "The High Contracting Parties" instead of "The States members of the Commonwealth".

4. The third paragraph of article 6 should begin with the words "The High Contracting Parties" instead of "The States members of the Commonwealth".

Adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
on 12 December 1991

[Original: English]

ANNEX II

Statement by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted on 20 December 1991 on the occasion of conclusion by Ukraine of the Agreement on the Community of Independent States

The Agreement on the Community of Independent States, which was ratified on 10 December 1991 by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with reservations to it, ensures the independence of Ukraine as a State. At the same time, there has been an ambiguous interpretation of the specific articles of the Agreement and its general direction by the official circles of the parties that signed it. It has dealt with the Agreement as designed to serve the basis for creating a new union State.

In accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, from the moment of ratification of the Agreement binding for Ukraine will be those provisions of the Agreement signed by the President to which no reservations were made, as well as the reservations to the Agreement that were endorsed by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

In summary, the Minsk Agreement ratified by the Verkhovna Rada with the reservations made for Ukraine means the following:

1. In accordance with the Act of Proclamation of Independence of Ukraine of 24 August 1991 and the will of the people of Ukraine exercised through the all-Ukrainian referendum, Ukraine is and will remain by its legal status an independent State, the subject of international law.

2. Ukraine denies the transformation of the Community of the Independent States into a State entity with its bodies of power and control.

3. Ukraine denies granting to the Community the status of the subject of international law.

4. The coordinating institutions within the framework of the Community cannot have obligatory power. Their decisions have the character of recommendations.

5. By independently exercising its foreign policy, Ukraine will enter consultations with other States of the Community.

6. The border between Ukraine, on one hand, and Russia and Belarus, on the other hand, is the state border of Ukraine, which is inviolable. Its demarcation line, defined by the Treaty between Ukraine and Russia of 1990, remains unalterable, regardless of whether Ukraine is a party to the agreement or not.

7. Ukraine shall create her own armed forces on the basis of the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, deployed on her territory.

8. Ukraine shall strive to obtain a non-nuclear status by elimination of all her nuclear arsenals under an effective international control and according to the Declaration on the State Sovereignty and shall join no military blocs.

9. The deployment of the strategic armed forces on Ukrainian territory is temporary. Their legal status and the term of their stationing on the territory of Ukraine have to be defined by a specific agreement to be concluded between States on the territory of which the nuclear weapons of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are deployed.

10. Ukraine shall form her own open economic system by introducing her own currency, creating her own bank and customs systems, developing her own transport and communications systems, as well as participating in regional and interregional markets.

11. Ukraine shall solve disputes arising from interpretation and implementation of the norms of the Agreement through negotiations on the basis of international law.

12. Ukraine reserves her right not only to suspend but to terminate her participation in the Agreement or in its specific articles.

13. Ukraine guarantees fulfilment of international obligations that stem for her from the treaties of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in accordance with her national legislation.

Everything stated in paragraphs 1 to 13 of this statement is the official interpretation of the Minsk Agreement and is obligatory for the President of Ukraine, Prime Minister of Ukraine and other structural chains of the executive power.

I. PLUSHCH
Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada
of Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS

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9 January 1992
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 8 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on the death of five members of the Monitor Mission to Yugoslavia, issued at Lisbon, on 7 January 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement on the death of five members of the Monitor Mission to Yugoslavia of the European Community, issued at Lisbon on 7 January 1992 by the European Community and its States members

The European Community and its member States are apalled and dismayed by the tragic events that occurred today and which have caused the death of five members of the Monitor Mission to Yugoslavia.

The Community and its member States urgently call for a thorough investigation of the circumstances which have led to this grave incident, in order to determine responsibilities to the fullest extent.

To this end, the Head of the Monitor Mission has been instructed to organize immediately a tripartite commission of inquiry.

The Presidency's Representative in Belgrade has also received instructions to meet, in a troika format, the local authorities with a view to securing their complete cooperation with the above-mentioned investigation.

The Community and its member States solemnly recall the commitments accepted by all parties involved in the present crisis to ensure the security of all members of the Monitor Mission, and strongly urge them to abstain from any act which might jeopardize the present cease-fire, which must be seen as the key element in the search for a peaceful and negotiated solution.

The Community and its member States express their deepest sympathy and solidarity to the relatives of the victims and pay tribute to the courage displayed by all members of the Monitor Mission which has been so severely tested since the beginning of its activities.

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A/47/69
13 January 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Note verbale dated 9 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit for information a copy of a press release issued by the Government of Botswana and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the establishment of reciprocal offices to be known as the Office of the Botswana Representative in South Africa and the Office of the South African Representative in Botswana respectively.

The Permanent Representative would be grateful if the press release could be circulated under the item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa".

ANNEX

Press release issued on 30 December 1991 by the Government of Botswana

Representative office in the Republic of South Africa

The Minister for External Affairs, Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe, has today announced that the Government of the Republic of Botswana and the Government of the Republic of South Africa have agreed to the establishment of reciprocal missions.

Botswana is to establish an office in South Africa to be known as the Office of the Botswana Representative and South Africa will open an office in Gaborone, which will be known as the Office of the South African Representative.

It is considered important for Botswana to be informed at first hand on the unfolding political developments in South Africa, which are expected to affect greatly the interests of our country and of the southern African region as a whole.

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A/47/70
13 January 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 9 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the text of a memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (see annex).

I would very much appreciate it if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Svetlomir BAEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Memorandum dated 8 January 1992 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria

Since the very outset of the crisis in Yugoslavia, the Republic of Bulgaria has pursued a policy of non-interference in that country's internal affairs and has refrained from actions that may be seen as attempts to take advantage of the complex situation in Yugoslavia.

Bulgaria has supported resolutions 713 (1991) and 721 (1991) of the United Nations Security Council and the measures initiated within the framework of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It supports the approach adopted by the European Economic Community towards the problems that have emerged as a result of the Yugoslav crisis, including the criteria formulated in the declaration of 16 December 1991. Bulgaria welcomes with appreciation the principle of equal treatment as regards the recognition of all Yugoslav republics that conform with the criteria set out in the declaration, and the willingness of the European Economic Community's member States to effectuate such recognition after 15 January 1992.

Bulgaria believes that with the latest amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, of 6 January 1992, the said republic conforms with the criteria set out in the declaration of the European Economic Community and should be treated on an equal footing with Slovenia and Croatia. Bulgaria is convinced that any postponement of the international recognition for which the Republic of Macedonia is eligible would not be conducive to stability in the Balkans.

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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 13 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of two declarations of the European Community and its member States on the question of Yugoslavia, issued in Lisbon on 10 January 1992 (see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Declaration on Yugoslavia, issued at Lisbon on 10 January 1992 by the European Community and its States members

The Community and its member States welcome the resumption of the Conference on Yugoslavia, under the presidency of Lord Carrington, and call upon all republics to commit themselves fully to its successful outcome.

The Community and its member States also strongly support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote the cease-fire agreed upon at Sarajevo, on 2 January 1992. They warmly welcome the decision by the United Nations Security Council to send immediately to Yugoslavia a group of liaison officers, who will work closely together with the Monitor Mission.

The Community and its member States reiterate their outrage at the intolerable aggression directed against the helicopters of the Monitor Mission, all the more so when the parties to the conflict had given formal guaranties on the security of the monitors. They strongly urge the authorities in Belgrade and the JNA to cooperate fully with the Commission of Inquiry, under the auspices of the Head of the Monitor Mission, so that those responsible can be brought to justice.

The Community and its member States fully support the efforts of the Head of the Monitor Mission to secure strict explicit guaranties with regard to the security of the monitors so as to avoid any further incident.

The Community and its member States underline that the activities of the Monitor Mission of the European Community in Yugoslavia remain a key element of the peaceful settlement of the current crisis. They stress once again the courage shown by the monitors and express the hope that the peace process will continue with renewed determination.

ANNEX II

Declaration on Montenegro, issued at Lisbon on 10 January 1992 by the European Community and its States members

The Community and its member States welcome the reconvening of the Conference on Yugoslavia, on 9 January 1992, at Brussels, and note with satisfaction that all parties to the conflict were present.

The Community and its member States recognize the contribution made by the Yugoslav parties to the furtherance of peaceful solution to the conflict. In this context, they note in particular the contribution by Montenegro to create the necessary conditions for the continuation of the Conference, thus allowing the negotiations on a comprehensive political settlement to move forward.

The Community and its member States are therefore ready to prepare for the adoption of positive measures in favour of this Republic similar to those measures which exist for other Republics.

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 17 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on the recognition of the Republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, issued on 15 January 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement on the recognition of the Republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, issued on 15 January 1992 by the European Community

The Community and its member States welcome the willingness expressed by Kyrghyzstan and Tadzhikistan to fulfil the requirements contained in the "Guidelines on the recognition of new States in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union". The Community and its member States are ready to proceed with the recognition of these Republics.

The Community and its member States note with satisfaction that all the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States have now committed themselves to the above-mentioned guidelines.

They welcome in particular:

(a) The acceptance by the Republics concerned of the commitments contained in the CFE Treaty and in other arms reduction agreements;

(b) Their acceptance of other international obligations, and of the commitments outlined by the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE);

(c) Their acceptance of obligations related to economic questions in general, and the question of foreign debts of the former Soviet Union in particular;

(d) Their commitment to solve in a peaceful manner and through the appropriate international mechanisms and procedures their differences, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with CSCE.

The Community and its member States reiterate the importance they attach to a single control of nuclear weapons. They call upon all the Republics concerned to adhere as soon as possible to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as non-nuclear weapon States. They also call upon these Republics to ensure effective control of nuclear exports.

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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 21 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the Declaration of 11 January 1992 by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus "On the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and of its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus on the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus expresses its profound concern that the process of resolving questions concerning the fate of the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has recently acquired a non-constructive, dangerous character and is transcending the limits of the agreements on this matter between the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. This development could have extremely undesirable results and threatens to move in the direction of violent confrontation between individual States.

In this connection, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus declares that:

1. In the question of the fate of the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics there must be no alternative to the negotiating process, and the negotiations must be conducted strictly within the limits of the relevant agreements between the leaders of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

2. Respecting the rights of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to independent military policies and affirming its own aspiration to create an independent, neutral and non-nuclear State, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus calls upon the States constituting the Commonwealth of Independent States to proceed urgently to negotiations on the fate of the armed forces of the former USSR.

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus calls upon the supreme soviets of Russia and Ukraine, as well as on the leaders of those States, to refrain, during the negotiations, from any unilateral actions capable of destabilizing the situation.

Should this negotiating process break down, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus reserves the right to take decisions, on a unilateral basis, on the implementation of the military policy of the Republic of Belarus.

Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus
11 January 1992
Minsk

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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 22 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 11 January 1992 the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus adopted a resolution "Concerning the armed forces stationed on the territory of the Republic of Belarus".

Pursuant to that resolution, all armed forces units in Belarusian territory are subject to the authority of the Council of Ministers of Belarus, with the exception of troops forming part of the strategic forces, concerning which a separate agreement is to be concluded.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus has been assigned the task of establishing a committee from among the People's Deputies and the members of the Government of the Republic, to be chaired by the President of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus, which will enter into urgent negotiations with the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States with a view to making arrangements for the maintenance, provisioning and reforming of the armed forces of the Commonwealth and the social security of military personnel and their families.

Authority over the strategic forces stationed in Belarusian territory will be exercised by the unified command of the strategic forces of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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23 January 1992

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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 20 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the text of a Decision of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex I), the text of a Declaration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex II) and the text of a Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex III).

I would very much appreciate it if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Svetlomir BAEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Decision of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, issued at Sofia on 15 January 1992

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria recognizes the independence of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our position is based on the approach of equality in treatment of the former Yugoslav republics and the criteria for their recognition adopted by the European Community. By the simultaneous recognition of all four former Yugoslav republics, we reiterate the aspiration of the Republic of Bulgaria to support the democratic process, peace and stability in the Balkans, in conformity with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe.

Annex II

Declaration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, issued at Sofia on 15 January 1992

Today, 15 January 1992, the Republic of Bulgaria decided to recognize the independence of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. This decision was taken in the spirit of the report of the Commission on Arbitration of the European Community, headed by the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of France, Justice Robert Badinter. It is an expression of the principled policy of Bulgaria, which recognizes the right of free and democratic self-determination of all peoples, including their right to establish sovereign and independent States.

Our decision is yet another evidence of Bulgaria's persistent aspiration to act as a stabilizing factor in the Balkans and to contribute to the genuine unification of Europe, based on the principles of international law and the values of democracy. In this, Bulgaria's national interests are fully in harmony with the goals of modern European politics.

Our position is a logical result of our overall attitude towards the crisis west of our borders; it is a position that the Bulgarian State has upheld on many occasions. We are convinced that this decision is an important step to an even closer cooperation with all our neighbours, towards even closer integration within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It is an intrinsic characteristic of our new foreign policy, one that Bulgaria will pursue in the future.

I am convinced that the Bulgarian people and all political forces support the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Annex III

Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria in connection with the decision of the Bulgarian Government on the recognition of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, issued at Sofia on 17 January 1992

In its policy, the Bulgarian Government determines as its main objective the development of good relations with all countries and, naturally, first and foremost with its neighbours. Bulgaria sees it as its special obligation and responsibility towards Europe not to exacerbate but, rather, to assist in the settlement of problems in the Balkan region.

Guided by this understanding, the Bulgarian Government, by its decision on the recognition of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, declared once again its will to respect the existing borders and that it has no territorial claims towards any State. This policy conforms with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe.

The recognition of the republics is based on respect of the lawful interests of the people living on their territories, of their legitimate will for State sovereignty, and of their right to determine on their own the relations among themselves and with other States. This has also been the approach adopted by Bulgaria as regards the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Democratic Bulgaria is persistently striving to pursue a European policy in the Balkans; it will carry out its actions in full view of the general positive processes in the continent in which the European Community plays an important role. The Bulgarian Government adopted the European Community's approach of equality in the treatment of the Yugoslav republics and the European Community criteria on their recognition, while also taking notice of the position of the Commission on Arbitration. Future steps towards the establishment of diplomatic relations with the republics will be made in conformity with the decisions to be made within the framework of the European Community.

The Bulgarian Government believes that such a position will contribute to stability in the Balkans as part of a new Europe.